

Message Text

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15

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 AEC-11 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCEM-02 RSR-01

/112 W

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R 031400Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5967

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9014

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, IN, CN

SUBJ: INDIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

1. MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME K.C. PANT TOLD THE RAJYA SABHA AUGUST 2 THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME SLIPPAGE IN INDIA'S NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM. BUT THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO TEETHING TROUBLES THAT WERE INEVITABLE WHEN SOMETHING NEW WAS TAKEN UP. THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF RELEGATING THE PROGRAM TO INFERIOR STATUS; IT WOULD GO AHEAD SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, PANT NOTED THAT AS THE GOVERNMENT HAD STATED BEFORE INDIA IS KEEPING ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS ABROAD ON COMMERCIAL UTILIZATION OF UNDERGROUND EXPLOSIONS. NO SUCH UTILIZATION HAD YET BEEN FOUND POSSIBLE BY ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. INDIAN SCIENTISTS HAVE WITNESSED SOME UNDERGROUND EXPLOSIONS IN THE US. INDIA WAS COMMITTED TO USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

3. IN REPLY TO A WRITTEN QUESTION, MRS. GANDHI SAID CANADA IS NOT WILLING TO EXPORT NUCLEAR COMPONENTS AND MATERIALS FOR USE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REACTORS THAT ARE NOT UNDER SAFEGUARDS ACCEPTABLE TO CANADA. AS

A RESULT, ITEMS ORDERED FROM CANADA FOR THE MADRAS ATOMIC POWER PROJECT HAVE BEEN DISALLOWED FOR EXPORT. ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANY OF THESE ITEMS HAVE BEEN MADE AND INDIGENOUS OR OTHER FOREIGN SOURCES WILL HAVE TO BE LOCATED FOR OTHER ITEMS. BUT THIS WILL REQUIRE TIME AND WILL DELAY COMPLETION OF THE MADRAS ATOMIC POWER PROJECT.

MOYNIHAN

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